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Northern Developments

Peace Value-Added Agriculture Strategy seeks input

The Peace Value-Added Strategy Group (PAVASG) is pleased to announce the completion of the Opportunity Analysis Of Value Added Agriculture In The Peace Region. The analysis is part of a long-term strategy to diversify the agriculture industry in the Peace Region of British Columbia and Alberta through a viable valueadded agriculture industry.

The PAVASG is hosting a morning of presentations and an afternoon workshop on February 20, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Fairview College (Room AC-144), in Fairview. Agriculture industry stakeholders in the Peace Region are invited to attend this event.

"We need help from the agriculture industry and its partners to make the opportunities identified in this study come to fruition," says Vice Chair of the Council Gerald McIvor. "The Northern Alberta Development Council is committed to working with government and industry representatives to develop value-added agriculture in the north."

Morning presentations will include an overview and update of the group's Value-Added Strategy, a formal presentation by representatives of the Canadian Resource Economics Ltd., and presentations by regional value-added entrepreneurs. The afternoon workshop will focus on a review of the Value-Added Strategy. Other regional developments, such as The Innovation Network and the Peace Value-Added Food & Ag Association's strategic plan review make this workshop.

For further information on the PAVASG, the Opportunity Analysis, or to register for the presentation and workshop, contact:

> **Brad Bishop** Chair, PAVASG Phone: (780) 624-6535

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Northern LINKS helping northern students further their education

The Northern LINKS Selection Committee approved approximately \$195,000 for projects at their recent meeting in Lac La Biche. Designed to ease the transition from high school to post-secondary education, the program assists northern Alberta students in securing expanding employment opportunities.

"Advancing the knowledge and skill levels of northern Alberta students is critical for healthy development of the north," comments Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Minister Pearl Calahasen. "The Northern LINKS program plays an important role in helping Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities in educating their youth."

Students from communities such as Beaverlodge, Buffalo Lake, Grande Prairie, Lac La Biche, Fairview, Fox Creek, Frog Lake, Worsley, Wabasca, Kehewin and Slave Lake will benefit from these projects. Northern LINKS is in it's third year of funding projects such as campus tours, peer mentorship, career resource centres and orientation sessions. Target groups are students in grades 9 to 12 and first year post-secondary students.

"Northern LINKS is an integral part of the Northern Alberta Development Council's mandate to advance development in the north," says Gary Friedel, Peace River MLA and Council Chair. "This program addresses the challenges that northern Alberta students encounter in pursuing post-secondary education."

Projects with direct benefits, measurable objectives and partnerships are encouraged. Applicants include schools, community organizations, post-secondary institutions, Metis settlements and First Nations offices. Deadline for grant applications for the 2002-2003 fiscal year is April 30, 2002. For more information on the program, contact Terry Vulcano, Senior Development Officer at (780) 624-6275.

Students find common ground on environmental issuesNorthern Alberta students attend international forum

Six students from northern Alberta represented Canada at the first annual Youth Eco Forum in Edmonton on December 2 to 4, 2001. Students from High Level, Keg River, Peace River, Grande Prairie, McLennan and Guy joined youth from northern regions in Alaska, Japan, China, Russia and Finland to discuss common environmental issues. Students between the ages of 14 and 16 learned about and exchanged ideas in the areas of protected areas, energy and waste management.

The Youth Eco Forum is a project of the Northern Forum and was developed to foster environmental education for youth in the north. Established in 1991, the Northern Forum is a non-profit international organization with 25 members from ten northern countries, including Canada. The Northern Alberta Development Council recruited and supervised the Alberta students. The Mackenzie Forest Education Society and La Crete Public School sponsored registration, accommodation and transportation costs for the youth participants.

"On behalf of the Northern Alberta Development Council, I would like to congratulate the students from northern Alberta on their participation in the Youth Eco Forum," adds Gary Friedel, MLA for Peace River and Council Chair. "Educating our youth is crucial for responsible development in the north. We were proud to support this event."

Through presentations, workshops and field trips, the students developed their knowledge of the environment. Each delegation presented their concerns and action plans for their region. Participants visited Elk Island National Park, the Edmonton Waste Treatment Plant and the Genesee Generating Station. Students listened to presentations on land use, waste management and energy.



Youth Eco Forum participants at their final banquet, held at the Fantasyland Hotel at the West Edmonton Mall.

"Ultimately, if you want to effect long term change in conservation of the environment, you need the youth," comments Priscilla Pos Wohl, Executive Director of the Northern Forum. "We were very pleased with the students and their perception and commitment to environmenta protection." Conference participants developed a Youth Eco Declaration with a vision statement, statement of concerns and action plans designed to address their regional and global environmenta concerns. The document will be presented to regional government and to the United Nations.



Students discuss their ideas on the environment at the Youth Eco Forum.

Recycling in Northern Alberta Northern Coordinated Action For Recycling Enterprises

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) continues to work with Northern Coordinated Action For Recycling Enterprises (Northern CARE) on the advancement of recycling and waste management in northern Alberta.

New Executive Director

Christine Della Costa has been hired as the new Executive Director for Northern CARE. Christine brings a wealth of experience to this position, especially in relation to educational initiatives. Christine has already been active in the preparation of a new business plan for Northern CARE, as well as the organizing the *Northern Alberta Recycling Workshop* 2002 and coordinating northern recycling projects.

Northern Alberta Recycling Workshop

Rob Smith, General Manager, Athabasca Regional Waste Management Services Commission, will be chairing the organizing committee for *Northern CARE's 2002 Recycling Workshop*. This special event will be held in the Town of Athabasca on September 11-13, 2002. The Workshop will feature a number of excellent speakers who will address a wide range of topics related to recycling. To register for the Workshop and/or obtain further information on it, please contact Christine Della Costa at 780-732-9311.

Northern CARE Meeting

The forest industry plays an important role in northern Alberta's economies and many of its communities. Forest companies have also been involved in various recycling nitiatives. The Board of Directors will be meeting with representatives from northern forest industry companies at Northern CARE's March 15, 2002 meeting, to encourage heir membership and participation in Northern CARE. The neeting will feature a presentation on the mandate, goals and benefits associated with Northern CARE.

Looking to the Future

In response to a request from the Minister of Environment and the need to update its document, Northern CARE's Board of Directors recently prepared and adopted a new Business Plan. In conjunction with the Mackenzie Municipal Services Agency and Northern CARE's Executive Director, the NADC coordinated the preparation of the draft Business Plan.

The Directors adopted a new vision statement for Northern CARE:

Northern Coordinated Action For Recycling Enterprises will strive to:

- coordinate recycling and waste management initiatives in northern Alberta in a pro-active and effective manner;
- promote the importance of northern recycling and waste management; and
- coordinate and develop partnerships that will bring together diverse interest for the purpose of generating sustainable economic development opportunities for recycling in northern Alberta.

The Honourable Pearl Calahasen, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development complimented Northern CARE's Directors for their work and their commitment to advancing recycling in the northern part of Alberta. Minister Calahasen noted, "Northern CARE has provided excellent leadership in the coordination of northern recycling projects and increasing the public awareness on the importance of recycling."



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Northern Alberta Highways Strategy

Council members and staff continue to gather support for the Northern Alberta Development Council's proposed Northern Alberta Highways Strategy. The purpose of the proposed Strategy is to advance the implementation of the Northwestern Canadian Integrated Road Network Concept Plan. The NADC has heard from numerous northern-based municipalities, industry, business organizations and others in regards to the Strategy. In the near future, the proposal will be presented to the Minister of Transportation by NADC Chair Gary Friedel.

NADC Bursaries for Students

Bursary applications for the Northern Bursary Program are due on *May 15, 2002*. Last year, over 115 bursaries were handed out to students. Alberta-based businesses and community organizations can also co-sponsor return service bursaries through the NADC Bursary Partnership Program. For information on our bursary programs, please contact the NADC's office at 780-624-6545.

Northern Alberta Human Resources Management Conference

This informative and worthwhile conference will be held on October 22-24, 2002 in Fort McMurray. The Conference will be of interest to people involved in or have an interest in human resources management, especially as it applies to the North. To register for the Conference or to obtain further information, please do not hesitate to contact Corinne Huberdeau of the NADC's Lac La Biche office at 780-623-6982.

Next NADC Meeting

The Northern Alberta Development Council's next regular meeting will be held in the Town of Athabasca on March 7 and 8, 2002. The Council will hold a *Leaders Roundtable Meeting* on the morning of March 8, 2002 at the Best Western Athabasca Inn.

Opportunities Seminars

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) will be organizing two Opportunities Seminars. One will be held on March 19, 2002 in the Town of Valleyview and the second one will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2002 in the Town of Athabasca. In the past, the NADC has organized similar seminars throughout northern Alberta.

Gary Friedel, the NADC's Chair, said, "These seminars provide an excellent forum for the discussion of economic and employment opportunities in Aboriginal and non Aboriginal communities alike. By bringing togethe industry and community representatives, opportunities can be identified and acted on. The NADC is pleased to be in a position to organize the Seminars."

The Opportunities Seminars are open to the public. To register, or for more information on the Seminars, pleas contact Corinne Huberdeau or Kim Price at the NADC' Lac La Biche office at 780-623-6982.

Here's How to Reach Us

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